



Community Meeting Minutes January 19, 2023 VIA Go-To Meeting

Members Present:

Pat Chambers (PCOM)
Pamela Davis (Legal Aid Society)
Gina Harris (DSS)
Vantoria Clay (Endeppendence Center)
Annie White-Guertin (PARC)
Dwight Williams (DBHS)
Marti Chick-Ebey (HVAMC)
Beck Barfield (Eggleston)
Holly Toll (Probation & Parole)
Olisha Sawyer (VBCDC)

Cathy Parker (PRHA)
Melissa Peele (Firm Foundation)
Joy Shaffer (HER Shelter, PHAC Secretary)
Michael Shackelford (Eggleston)
Shannon Tipton (ForKids)
Jean Jones (Policy & Planning Co-Chair)
Donna Hufnagle (VSH)
Sharonita Cousin (Policy & Planning Co-Chair)
Darlene Washington (PVH, PHAC Co-Chair)
Ursula Murphy (PSO)

Other attendee's:

Jamar Blyther (Safe Harbor)
Heather Wilson (Safe Harbor)
Lisa Green (PVH Intern)
Karen Joyner (TPC)

Meeting Called to Order: 10:05AM.

Review of November 17, 2022, Minutes

Ursula Murphy (PSO) motioned for the November 17th minutes to be approved as presented. Annie White -Guertin (PARC) 2nd the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were approved.

Agency Operational and Service Delivery Updates

PARC

Annie White-Guertin (PARC) reported the agency is continuing to operate with no significant changes.

Eggleston

Beck Barfield (Eggleston) reported there are no updates at this time.

PVH

Darlene Sparks-Washington (PVH, PHAC Executive Co-Chair) reported there are no updates at this time. However, she re-iterated that PVH is not operating as they were pre-Covid. If there is anyone in need of shelter, they are prioritized based on vulnerability. Therefore, individuals should be directed to call the office so a pre-intake can be conducted. Additionally, Darlene informed the group of an upcoming event: Echoes of Joy, hosted by the Department of Parks and Recreation held on January 28, 2023 at the Elm Ave., Neighborhood Recreation Center where citizens can receive resources.

VSH

Donna Hufnagle (VSH) reported the agency is operating as normal. It was also reported that Kamico Tracy is no longer with VSH and Donna will be stepping in on her behalf.

DBHS

Dwight Williams (DBHS) reported there are no updates at this time.

Portsmouth Probation and Parole

Holly Toll (Portsmouth Probation and Parole) reported there are no updates at this time.

HER Shelter

Joy Shaffer (HER Shelter) reported there are no update at this time.

HVAMC

Marti Chick-Ebey (HVAMC) reported the agency is continuing take two (2) VASH referrals each month from PCAN. Additionally, there were Covid issues with some of the contract programs and it was difficult to get beds in the homeless programs. However, the agency is trying to get back up to speed.

Firm Foundation of Virginia

Melissa Peele (Firm Foundation of Virginia) reported that the agency currently does not have any openings. However, individuals are being placed on a waitlist.

VBCDC

Olisha Sawyer (VBCDC) reported the agency is open for prevention cases for supportive services for the veteran family program. Additionally, there was an increase for the income eligibility to 80% AMI for rapid re-housing veteran households. However, the 50% AMI remains the same for prevention families looking to be serviced.

Legal Aid Society

Pamela Davis (Legal Aid Society) reported the agency provides free legal services (Non – Criminal) to those living in poverty. The agency is in downtown Norfolk and individuals are welcomed to walk in to have an intake conducted to see if they are eligible for services or apply on-line. Legal Aid provides service for cases pertaining to divorce, benefits, etc. Additionally, the agency provides outreach services throughout the community.

Individuals can reach Legal Aid via web: laseva.org or by phone: 757-627-5423 to have an intake conducted.

PCOM

Pat Chambers (PCOM) reported there are no updates at this time.

ForKids

Shannon Tipton (ForKids) reported there are no updates at this time.

PSO

Ursula Murphy (PSO) reported there are no updates at this time.

Endeppendence Center

Vantoria Clay (Endeppendence Center) reported there are no updates at this time.

DSS

Gina Harris (DSS) reported there are no agency updates. However, she has been working with the Healthy Portsmouth Coalition and assisting in the planning process to arrange blood pressure screenings for Portsmouth citizens for the last week in February. This is part of a national project called The Million Hearts.

Committee Reports**Executive Committee**

Darlene Sparks Washington (PVH, PHAC Executive Co-Chair) reported there are no updates from the committee at this time.

Policy & Planning Committee

Jean Jones (Policy and Planning Co-Chair) reported on the upcoming event for PIT and HIC. HUD requires for a count to be conducted for individuals that are identified as homeless who are unsheltered as well as conducting a count for homeless individuals in emergency shelters. The count will take place on the morning of January 26, 2023, where the city of Portsmouth will be canvased. Additionally, Jean reported that inventory will be taken to determine how many beds the CoC has for PSH. Once the data is collected and submitted, HUD compiles and reviews the data (nationwide) to determine how much money will be requested from Congress to help fund homeless programs.

Coordinated Entry Committee

Ursula Murphy (PSO, CES Co-Chair) noted that Coordinated Entry Committee Meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of each month. The meeting is designed to review processes and to work towards solutions for any issues that may come about. Participation and attendance are encouraged.

PCAN Update

Karen Joyner (PCAN Co-Chair) reported that the PCAN Committee is working to streamline reporting including wrap around services during case conferencing meetings to ensure that appropriate referrals are

being sent. Additionally, Eggleston is now attending PCAN and CE meetings and they offer an employment program called C3. Legal Aid will also be attending case conferencing meetings.

Veteran Update

Marti Chick-Ebey (HVAMC) reported that VBCDC is open for prevention. Additionally, HVAMC is taking verified HUD VASH referrals from PCAN.

HMIS Committee

Ursula Murphy (PSO, HMIS Co-Chair) reported that the committee voted and approved to meet bi-monthly, and the Longitudinal Data Analysis has been completed and submitted on time to HUD.

Agency Spotlight: Heather Wilson – Safe Harbor

Heather Wilson (Safe Harbor) provided an agency overview and presentation of the services offered. The agency has three (3) locations located in the heart of Portsmouth. Safe Harbor has two (2) residential locations that provide treatment to those struggling with substance abuse in conjunction with therapy sessions. Additionally, Safe Harbor has one (1) location that offers a Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) where individuals can attend day treatment 8:30am – 3:30pm Monday -Friday and transportation is provided to and from.

Safe Harbor Contact Information:

Jamar L. Blyther

Business Development Representative

Jamar.Blyther@SafeHarborBHC.com

Direct: (757) 450-6626

Fax: (757) 793-2336

Web: <https://safeharborrecovery.com/>

Safe Harbor Residential Locations

2700 London Blvd Portsmouth, VA 23707 & 1819 Elm Ave. Portsmouth, VA 23704

PHP Location

3516 Queen Street Portsmouth, VA 23707

Items from the floor:

Vantoria Clay (Endeppendence Center) inquired about the upcoming homeless shelter project that is underway for Portsmouth and the accessibility features. Darlene Sparks-Washington (PVH, PHAC Co-Chair) indicated Nathan Woodard (DBHS) would be the best point of contact to address any questions.

Donna Hufnagle (VSH) inquired if PVH was open for day services. Darlene Sparks-Washington (PVH PHAC Co-Chair) reported the agency is open for pre-intake for shelter and day services would be a part of the pre-intake process. Additionally, Dwight Williams (DBHS) indicated showers are available to those in need as well as Day Services at The Opportunity House. Pamela Davis (Legal Aid Society)

inquired on details regarding the process on same day services for The Opportunity House. Dwight Williams (DBHS) indicated he will provide specific information via email.

Melissa Peele (Firm Foundation) inquired about the housing crisis hotline contact number. Sharonita Cousin (VSH, Policy & Planning Co-Chair) indicated that callers would be routed to the Portsmouth hotline for assistance. Melissa also inquired about GED services that are offered in Portsmouth. Joy Shaffer (HER Shelter) reported GED services are offered at the Portsmouth Adult Learning Center.

Ursula Murphy (PSO) reported the city has posted “No Panhandling” signage throughout Portsmouth. However, the hotline phone number is not notated on the signs.

Karen Joyner (TPC) reported that PIT volunteers will meet up on January 26, 2023, at 6:30am in the parking lot of Oasis and assigned to the appropriate teams.

With no other business to discuss Sharonita Cousin (VSH, Policy and Planning Co-Chair) motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ursula Murphy (PSO) 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Prepared by: Karen Joyner (TPC)